



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



NEPAL FACT SHEET

PROGRAM FOR ENHANCEMENT OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE (PEER)

PEER aims to enhance the response capacity of local, regional, and national disaster management agencies.

Since 1998, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) has supported the Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER), a regional initiative focused on enhancing disaster preparedness through the development of professional emergency responders and instructors. With USAID/OFDA support, the American Red Cross (AmCross), the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, and the Kathmandu-based National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) have worked in close coordination with local, regional, and national disaster management authorities and communities in Nepal and several other South Asian countries to strengthen and institutionalize sustainable disaster preparedness training programs and advance emergency response systems.

PEER OBJECTIVES

The objectives of PEER are by:

- Establishing a system for enhanced community-level first responder capacity in disaster-prone communities
- Improving the capacity of hospitals and medical facilities to manage mass casualty incidents
- Training in-country instructors in all programs for longer-term sustainability

PEER also seeks to encourage local ownership of disaster preparedness and response capacity building efforts by strengthening engagement with national, public, and private institutions.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES STAGE IV

- Community Action for Disaster Response (CADRE): The CADRE training course teaches individuals to be better prepared to respond to disasters in their communities. The three-day modular course incorporates simple elements of medical first response and collapsed structure search-and-rescue operations.
- Medical First Responders (MFR): The MFR course provides individuals with the first response knowledge and skills necessary to assess, treat, and transport sick or injured patients following an emergency or disaster..
- Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR): The CSSR course prepares emergency first-responders to search for, stabilize, and extricate victims trapped by collapsed structures.
- Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE): HOPE is a training course for hospital staff and medical and non-medical health care personnel to prepare health care facilities that can respond effectively to mass casualty incidents and other emergencies involving large patient load.
- Swift Water Rescue (SWR): SWR is a newly introduced course currently being developed under PEER in water rescue or training on swift water rescue.
- Instructor Development Trainings: PEER has a standard system for developing instructors. The program supports development of curricula for different training stages to form a pool of local instructors.

PEER's effectiveness was demonstrated during the response to the April 2015, earthquake and its aftershocks in Nepal. PEER graduates were mobilized by their respective organizations and played key roles in the humanitarian response operations. MFR graduates served in field hospitals in the affected districts, and HOPE-trained personnel at the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital implemented the hospital's disaster preparedness plan, enabling the facility to effectively cope with the increased workload following the earthquakes. In addition, more than 670 CADRE national volunteers were mobilized for response operations in affected communities.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

In Nepal, the following are the numbers of PEER graduates from as of September 2016:

- 359 MFR graduates and 135 MFR instructors
- 325 CSSR graduates and 102 CSSR instructors
- 367 HOPE graduates and 67 HOPE instructors
- 169 CADRE graduates and 47 CADRE instructors